

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A wastewater separator to separate waste from a mixed wastewater stream before said mixed wastewater stream is directed into a sewer system, said mixed wastewater stream including one or more of heavy waste, light waste and water, said wastewater separator comprising:

- a separation container having a width and a floor;
- a wastewater inlet to said separation container; and
- a wastewater outlet from said separation container;

said separation container comprising:

- a wastewater stream director within said container, said wastewater stream director being sized, shaped and positioned relative to said wastewater inlet to direct said wastewater stream along a preferred flow path to permit said light waste to separate from said wastewater stream in a first direction to a collection area and to permit said heavy waste to separate from said wastewater stream in a second direction towards a heavy waste removal area; and

- a flow-directing outlet baffle having an outlet at said wastewater outlet and extending downward toward said floor of said container and extending inwardly across said floor of said container toward said heavy waste removal area, said flow-directing outlet baffle being positioned within said container for directing said wastewater stream to said wastewater outlet from said heavy waste removal area to remove said heavy waste from said separation container; said flow-directing outlet baffle having an inlet extending across said container adjacent to said heavy waste removal area and having a height sufficient to accelerate flow through said inlet to suck said heavy waste away so as to cause the heavy waste to be carried out of the separation container with said wastewater stream.

Claim 2. (original): The wastewater separator as claimed in claim 1, wherein said wastewater stream director comprises:

a flow-directing inlet baffle and
a separation flow director, downstream from said flow-directing inlet baffle, for directing said wastewater along said preferred flow path.

Claim 3. (original): The wastewater separator as claimed in claim 2, wherein said preferred flow path has an optimized length within said container to permit an optimized amount of light waste to separate from said wastewater stream in said first section by virtue of its relatively high buoyancy.

Claim 4. (original): The wastewater separator as claimed in claim 3, wherein said flow-directing inlet baffle has cross sectional outlet area sized and shaped to slow said wastewater stream in said container sufficiently to permit said heavy waste to fall from said wastewater stream to said waste removal area.

Claim 5. (original): The wastewater separator as claimed in claim 4, wherein said separation section further comprises a heavy waste collector, said heavy waste collector being sized, shaped and positioned to remove heavy waste falling from said wastewater stream from said heavy waste removal area as said wastewater stream is directed out of said container.

Claim 6. (original): The wastewater separator as claimed in claim 5 wherein said flow-directing inlet baffle is sized, shaped and positioned so as to direct said wastewater stream to the bottom of said container at one end thereof, and wherein said separation flow director comprises an inclined ramp having a radiused upper edge and being positioned downstream an outlet end of said flow-directing inlet baffle whereby said wastewater stream is directed upward through said container by said ramp.

Claim 7. (original): The wastewater separator as claimed in claim 6, wherein said heavy waste removal area comprises a portion of the bottom of said container adjacent to said upper edge of said ramp.

Claim 8. (canceled)

Claim 9. (original): The wastewater separator as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flow-directing outlet baffle is detachably attached in said container.

Claim 10. (original): The wastewater separator as claimed in claim 2, wherein said flow-directing inlet baffle is detachably attached in said container.

Claim 11. (original): The wastewater separator as claimed in claim 1, said wastewater separator further comprising a cover detachably attachable to said container, said cover being sized and shaped to removably cover an open top of said container, whereby the light waste floating at the top of the container can be easily removed upon removing said cover from said container.

Claim 12. (original): The wastewater separator as claimed in claim 9, wherein said wastewater separator further comprises at least one outlet handle attached to said flow-directing outlet baffle so that said outlet baffle may be easily removed from said container.

Claim 13. (original): The wastewater separator as claimed in claim 10, wherein said wastewater separator further comprises at least one inlet handle attached to said flow-directing inlet baffle, so that said inlet baffle may be easily removed from said container.

Claim 14. (currently amended): The wastewater separator as claimed in claims 2, 9 and 10 [[1]] said wastewater separator further comprising a cover detachably attachable to said container, said cover being sized and shaped to removably cover an open top of said container, whereby the light waste floating at the top of the container can be easily removed upon removing said cover from said container.

Claim 15. (original): The wastewater separator of claim 3, said wastewater separator further comprising a cover detachably attachable to said container, said cover being sized and shaped to removably cover an open top of said container, whereby the light waste floating at the top of the container can be easily removed upon removing said cover from said container.

Claim 16. (original): The wastewater separator of claim 3, wherein said flow-directing inlet baffle and said flow-directing outlet baffle are both detachably attached to said container.

Claim 17. (original): The wastewater separator of claim 16, said wastewater separator further comprising a cover detachably attachable to said container, said cover being sized and shaped to removably cover an open top of said container, whereby the light waste floating at the top of the container can be easily removed upon removing said cover from said container.

Claim 18. (original): The wastewater separator as claimed in claim 1, 2 and 17, said wastewater separator further comprising air entraining means associated with said wastewater inlet for entraining air into said wastewater stream.

Claim 19. (original): The wastewater separator of claim 3, said wastewater separator further comprising air entraining means associated with said wastewater inlet for entraining air into said wastewater stream.

Claim 20. (currently amended): A wastewater separator to separate light waste from a mixed wastewater stream, said wastewater separator comprising:

- a separation container having a floor, an inlet end and an outlet end;
 - a wastewater inlet to said separation container;
 - a wastewater outlet from said separation container; and
 - air entraining means associated with said wastewater inlet to entrain air into said wastewater stream;
- said separation container comprising:
- a wastewater stream director in the container, said wastewater stream director being sized, shaped and positioned to direct the wastewater stream along a preferred flow path which is generally diagonal across said container to facilitate separation of said light waste; and
 - a flow-directing outlet baffle having an outlet at said wastewater outlet and extending downward toward said floor of said container and extending inwardly across said floor of said container toward said wastewater stream director, said flow-directing outlet baffle being positioned in said container for directing said wastewater stream from a downstream end of said preferred flow path to said wastewater outlet;
- wherein said air entraining means comprise said wastewater stream director.

Claims 21-30 (canceled)

Claim 31. (previously presented): The wastewater separator of claim 2, wherein the separation flow director comprises a ramp having a radiused top for discouraging turbulent flow in said wastewater stream.

Claim 32. (previously presented): The wastewater separator of claim 2, wherein said flow-directing inlet baffle is sized and shaped to encourage laminar flow over said separation flow director.

Claim 33. (previously presented): The wastewater separator of claim 1, wherein the wastewater stream director is sized and shaped to discourage turbulent flow in said wastewater stream.

Claim 34. (previously presented): The wastewater separator of claim 1, wherein said inlet of said flow-directing outlet baffle has a width greater in size than said wastewater outlet.

Claim 35. (previously presented): The wastewater separator of claim 1, wherein the inlet of said flow-directing outlet baffle extends substantially across the width of said container.

Claim 36. (previously presented): The wastewater separator of claim 1, wherein wastewater director comprises a flow-directing inlet baffle having an outlet with a height, wherein the height of said flow-directing outlet baffle is smaller than the height of said outlet of said flow-directing inlet baffle.

Claim 37. (new): The wastewater separator of claim 1, wherein said inlet of said flow-directing outlet baffle extends substantially across said width of said container and said outlet of said flow-directing outlet baffle has a width corresponding to the size of said wastewater outlet which is smaller than the width of said inlet of said flow-directing outlet baffle.

Claim 38. (new): The wastewater separator of claim 16, wherein said detachable flow-directing inlet baffle comprises a vertically upstanding portion to define an inflow conduit and said detachable flow-directing outlet baffle comprises a vertically upstanding portion to define an outflow conduit.

Claim 39. (new): The wastewater separator of claim 1, wherein said separation container is a molded plastic container and further wherein said floor of said separation container is a substantially rectangular and horizontal floor.

Application No.: 09/732,299
Amendment and Response dated April 20, 2005
Reply to non-final Office Action of October 20, 2004
Docket No.: 669-87 RCE
Page 8

Claim 40. (new): The wastewater separator of claim 20, wherein said separation container is a molded plastic container and further wherein said floor of said separation container is a substantially rectangular and horizontal floor.